



**REGION 6 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (RRT)
SEMI - ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

January, 2004

**Coastal RRT Meeting
Lake Charles, Louisiana
January 27-28, 2004**

***Meeting opened at 0739 hours*

Committee Co-Chairs:

CAPT Daniel Ryan USCG
Ragan Broyles (acting) EPA

Attending Members:

Charlie Henry	NOAA	Robert Johns	Arkansas
George Allman	EPA	Steve Mason	EPA
Steve Spencer	DOI	Gary Stangeland	USACE
Roland Guidry	LOUISIANA	Mike Hilger	Navy
Bruce Hammit	LADEQ	Henry Delgado	DHHS
Greg Pollock	TXGLO	Bob Kahl	DOE
John Tintera	TNRCC	Joe Reina	OSHA
Jeff Lewellin	TCEQ	Lori LaFon	FEMA
Bob Hominick	GSA		

Captain Ryan welcomed attendees and expressed appreciation to agencies who assisted the Coast Guard in the recent implementation of MARSEC 2

Introduction of Ragan Broyles, EPA, acting Branch Chief and RRT VI Committee Co-Chair

Charles Gazda, former EPA Branch Chief and Co-Chair of RRT VI thanked the committee for his invitation to attend the meeting. Mr. Gazda has retired from the EPA, after 22 years of service as RRT 6 Co-Chair.

Captain Ryan presented Mr. Gazda with a Coast Guard award and plaque.

Introduction of Randy Roach, Mayor of Lake Charles

Mayor Roach welcomed RRT 6 members and Industry attendees to the city of Lake Charles and commended the RRT on their work (Port Security).

Introduction of Adam McBride, Director of the Port of Lake Charles

Mr. McBride stated that it was a pleasure to have RRT VI attendees in the city, and he spoke on issues, such as: safely moving cargo through waterways; federal funding, LNG terminal, and the importance of the mission of the RRT.

Introduction of RRT VI Members

Self-Introduction of Audience

Captain Ryan, USCG

- Requested that everyone in attendance update contact information for revision of the RRT 6 members mailing list
- Reviewed survey results submitted to RRT members; attempted to format Winter meeting based upon the recommendations provided in the survey; will continue to work with EPA to accommodate desires and recommendations of attendees
- LNG visit scheduled on first day; hard hats and safety glasses are required for all visitors

Ragan Broyles, Co-Chair EPA

- George Allman is the new RRT 6 Coordinator for the EPA
- No major changes within the agency, except the retirement of Mr. Gazda
- EPA has a new Superfund Division; Sam Coleman is the Director
- Introduced members of EPA: Craig Carroll, Team Leader for Emergency Readiness Team; Richard Franklin, Oil Expert; Steve Mason, EPA OSC, and Jim Staves, UTD, E-Plan.

Charlie Henry, DOC/NOAA

- Attempting to foster better stake holder consistency with dispersants; will be conducting Dispersant seminar in Corpus Christi
- New NOAA environmental sensitivity maps which will be shipped out and are available on the web
- LA Risk Analysis Study began one year ago; attempting to fortify areas with high risk

George Allman, RRT 6 Coordinator /EPA

- Has been assisting Mr. Broyles with RRT 6 issues
- Pleased to be in attendance

Steve Spencer, DOI

- Regional Environmental Officer in Albuquerque office has been very busy due to crewman initiatives; working with a team that has been directed to resolve communication issues; Albuquerque office is to become single POC

- Conducting effort to coordinate fish and wildlife sensitive habitat species; information will be placed into database and made available for on-scene coordinators
- DOI will be working with FEMA to develop communication plans with all federal agencies; will be conducting tabletop exercise

Roland Guidry, LOSCO

- Proud to have Ms. Kathleen Blanco as the first female Governor of Louisiana
- There are currently two vacancies in the LOSCO office
- GIS mapping are being upgraded
- Has been assisting with Homeland Security and spill issues
- Over 1,300 people have attended LOSCO Spill Management School

***slide presentation*

- Seeking training funds for Wildlife and Fisheries emergency bird rehab initiative

Bruce Hammit, LADEQ

- Agency has spent over one billion dollars in settlements and agreements within the past two years
- Currently involved in environmental settlement with DOW Chemical
- Hopes to continue working with the RRT 6 in the future

Greg Pollock, TGLO

- All six Gulf ACP's are in the new format
- Insertion of 2003 GLO equipment map
- Copy of the CD-rom tool kit is available on the web
- Mexus Exercise to be held in Brownsville, TX on May 25-27, 2004
- Fifth oil recycle facility opened at Freeport; second largest in state
- Processed over 450,000 gallons of used engine oil

John Tintera

- There is a new Chairman for RCC
- Implemented several programs addressing pollution

- Respond to over 1,000 spills per year
- New Orphan site cleanup program
- Brownfield Program expanded; \$450,000 grant to identify and assess sites; funding helped address potential Brownfield sites
- Received \$150,000 grant from EPA

Jeff Lewellin

- TCEQ is working with government to develop criteria for facility types
- Recently encountered algae problem
- Legal Division working with central records group concerning confidentiality
- ERT deployed to Houston, TX

Robert Johns

- Wayne Ruthven is the new Director, Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management
- Received money for new EOC in Little Rock; will be moving in 2006
- Currently conducting a large amount of training
- Working with locals to establish PIO

Steve Mason, EPA

- The International Hazmat Spill Conference will be held on May 4-6, 2004; 1,000 attendees are expected; registration fee is \$200
- The Small Spill Freshwater Conference will be held in New Orleans on April 6-8, 2004

Mike Hilger, DOD

- The Navy is undergoing re-organization of Emergency Response Branch in New Orleans. New RRT member coming from Corpus Christi
- In the process of standardizing training and developing response equipment list

Henry Delgado, DHHS

- DHHS has been split up into several groups; however, DHHS has retained the same mission
- The old DHHS Emergency Response Plan is being re-written/updated

Bob Kahl, DOE

- 100-110 people have been trained for emergency response
- Currently building exercise scenarios; unannounced exercise program

Joe Reina OSHA

- OSHA is forming a National Response Team

Bob Hominick, GSA

- Traveled to Federal Executive Board; given presentations on unified command

Lori LaFon, FEMA

- Will be conducting two all hazard CHER-CAP pilot programs in August and September; looking for interested federal partners. The location of the two exercises will be in St. James and Caddo/Bossier Parishes.
- Working with Henry Delgado of DHHS in the development of a scenario

Captain Ryan, USCG

- MTSA is being implemented; requires that all facilities and vessels have security plans by December 31, 2004
- Mexus is becoming significant in Eight District
- The JRT Meeting will be held next Tuesday in Wednesday, in Tampico, Mexico
- There have been two JRT and three Spill Responses Exercises that have taken place within the last two years
- The Mexican delegation has been asked to participate in the Sons Drill
- The NRT Meeting will be held in San Diego; Mexican Navy and Coast Guard signed five year plan
- Personnel Changes: Captain Ryan will retire on June 30, 2004; Commander Drieu has been issued orders for PCS; Captain Branch, CO, MSO NOLA will be replaced by Captain Paskewich; Captain Branch will be the new D8 Chief of Marine Safety Division; Captain Garrity, MSO Morgan City is relocating to MSO Portland, Maine and will be replaced by CAPT Terry Gilbreath; Capt William Wagner, MSO Corpus Christi, will be retiring and will be replaced by CAPT Lincoln Stroh.

Steve Spencer, DOI

- DOI offices will be moving to a new location in Albuquerque in late March, 2004

CG Federal On-Scene Coordinator Presentations

- All COTP presentations are available via request to Welcome T. Duncan
- Captain Steven Hardy, MSO Mobile, “M/V Ocean Pride Collision with T/B 320”
- Captain Ronald Branch, MSO New Orleans, “The Piping Plover”

***Break for lunch*

CG Federal On-Scene Coordinator Presentations Continued

- Captain Stephen Garrity, MSO Morgan City, “Well Blowout with Structural Loss of Drilling Rig and Pipeline Explosion”
- Captain Sharon Richey, MSO Port Arthur, “M/V PELJESAC”
- Captain Richard Kaser, MSO Houston, “Tank Barge NMS 1477”
- Captain William Wagner, MSO Corpus Christi, “Current Response Posture, Military Outload, BBC Norway Oriskany Remediation Project Upcoming Exercises”
- Presentation by Mr. William Walker, DOI, “Working with American Indian Tribes”
- EPA presented Mr. Gazda with a plaque from the U.S. National Response Team

LNG Site Visitation

***Meeting adjourned*

***Day 2 of the RRT VI semi-annual meeting opened at 0803 hours*

Karolien DeBusschere, LOSCO (Preparedness Committee)

- Presented Inshore/Nearshore Dispersants presentation from the Preparedness Committee; requested feedback regarding the committee’s approach
- RRT 6 approved continued development of the “DRAFT” plan without any objections

Chris Piehler, LADEQ

- In favor of document; would like to provide written feedback

There were no objections by the committee

Buzz Martin, TGLO (Science and Technology Committee)

- Reviewing three separate bioremediation documents to determine suitable replacement for the current draft guidelines
- An eleven page summary will assist OSC's; will ensure guidelines are consistent

Captain Ryan, USCG

- Requesting volunteers for Chairperson of Response Committee; position is currently vacant. There is a possibility Mr. Creg Carroll, OSC, EPA Region Six, will fill that position

Jim Overman, DOW (Industry Workgroup)

- Concerned with the direction that facility response
- Industry is spending many funds on Security Response Plans
- Ensure that port security plans are integrated with existing response plans

Presentations

Mr. Harvey Dexter, USCG, "MTSA Regulations"

Commander Michael Drieu, USCG, "Pipeline Incidents"

- Posed question to committee: "Are pipeline incidents an issue or just a perception?"

Responses:

- Alex Alvarado: tracking pipelines is an issue; there are 36,000 miles of pipelines offshore; offshore pipelines require permit from MMS; failures of pipelines must be reported; tracked with computerized GIS system; has database for pin-pointing pipelines in state waters; database available on the web
- John Tintera: TNRCC regulates intrastate pipelines only; Office of Pipeline Safety visits pipelines on risk basis
- Roland Guidry: Has done some pipeline identification; millions of pipes have no identification; would take millions of dollars in resources to identify pipelines
- Robert Johns: Arkansas has a pipeline commission; no major problems in state with pipelines
- Richard Franklin: Region VI has huge problem with pipelines; NGIS data is ten years old; new owners/contacts of pipelines are unknown; there are 17,000 oil fields in U.S.-lines are unknown until there is a leak; there are no standards for flow lines-there is a response component
- Alex Alvarado: Milars were updated to superimpose on NOAA charts; in process of comparing last chart to identify problem
- Proposed to include data in Regional Response Plan
- Posed question to committee: "Are there any preventive things that can be done with the pipeline issue?"

Response

- Roland Guidry: Locate crossings; mark trees; funding is not available to identify lines across the entire state; University of Lafayette (USL) has been working on oil spill database for three years; database should be completed in early May
- Commander Edwin Stanton, USCG, “NIMS/National Response Plan”
- Lieutenant Commander David Pertuz, USCG, “Coastal Mexus Updates”
- Commander Peter Gautier, USCG, “Viscous Oil Pumping System”
- Lieutenant James Suffern, USCG, “One Gulf Plan Update”
- Don Aurnd, TGLO (contractor), “Dispersant Demonstration Project”

There was no new business

***Meeting adjourned*